

## **EXHIBIT 27**

Puerto Rico

## UTIER Chief Calls PREPA Emergency Plan a ‘Publicity Campaign’ as Labor Leaders Underline Opposition to Privatization Plans

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### Relevant Document: [Press Release \(Spanish\)](#)

During a press conference today detailing their opposition to the planned privatization of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, union leaders dismissed PREPA’s Strategic Emergency Operations Plan as a “publicity campaign” aimed at “blackmailing” the federal court to approve additional financing for the public utility.

PREPA governing board President Ernesto Sgroi [said on Friday](#) that despite receipt of a [\\$300 million loan](#) from the Puerto Rico Treasury, PREPA would continue implementation of the emergency plan to “preserve liquidity and conserve money” and to show its commitment to more efficient operations. However, Angel Figueroa Jaramillo, the president of PREPA’s main union known as UTIER, said today that it is “not true” that an emergency plan is being implemented.

“This was an unnecessary publicity campaign that put the public at total unease. How many outages have there been since Sunday? The only thing they have done is to shut off emergency plants like Cambalache and Mayaguez to save money,” Figueroa Jaramillo said. He added that shuttering such “peaking” plants is common practice when there is sufficient generation to cover needs because they are costly to operate and are usually brought online only to cover demand when other generating assets are offline.

Figueroa Jaramillo also criticized the board for making its announcement after Judge Laura Taylor Swain approved a \$300 million loan following officials’ warnings during a [court hearing](#) that PREPA would be forced to cease operations without outside financing.

The UTIER chief, leaders of two other PREPA unions and the heads of two other associations representing PREPA management employees and retired workers argued during a press conference that Gov. Ricardo Rosselló’s planned privatization of the utility is the “wrong public policy that goes against the best interests of the people of Puerto Rico.” They also accused the administration of engaging in “demagoguery tactics” to push the privatization proposal while broad sectors of the public are still without electric power services in their residences as Hurricane Maria restoration work continues.

In announcing his privatization plan, which involves selling off generation assets and leasing PREPA’s transmission and distribution system, the governor said the move would lower costs and improve service by introducing competition and providing consumers with choices for where to get their electric power service. However, Figueroa Jaramillo predicted today that both talking points would diminish from the public discourse in the future.

Figueroa Jaramillo said he asked PROMESA board members during a recent meeting specifically how they believe electricity prices will fall under a privatization and “their answer ... was silence.” He said it was a “pro forma” meeting between the board and union leaders during which board members made clear they intend to cut pensions.

Meanwhile, he added that the small size of the island market makes it a “natural monopoly” where no investor will come to compete against other investors, but it will rather require a fixed return on investment, pointing to PREPA’s power purchase contracts with the two private power plants.

The labor representatives acknowledged that PREPA must go through a “transformation process” that improves governance and increases efficiency. However, they argued that Puerto Rico’s goal of more efficient and less costly power would be more easily achieved by keeping PREPA a public corporation, since ratepayers will have to bear the costs of the profits that private operators will seek through the privatization.

They said that the [utility run](#) by the city of Austin, Texas, is a good model for PREPA to emulate. The eighth-largest public power utility in the U.S., its client base and distribution area are similar in size to PREPA’s.

The privatization opponents also said that proponents are overstating the need for investment in new generating plants and other assets, saying that current capacity is more than twice typical demand. While more efficient generating units are needed, they said these can be built at existing plants, which would substantially reduce costs.

Figueroa Jaramillo also noted PREPA’s electric grid was being rebuilt with federal disaster funding, decreasing the argument for the need for private investment. He said future improvements could be financed through specific rate hikes.

The UTIER chief also argued that increasing solar and other renewable power through increased distributed generation, which relies on smaller generation facilities including residence- and business-based systems, would also develop more easily under a public utility not concerned with making profits.

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